

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application, and subject to a Restriction Requirement. Consideration of the pending claims is requested.

Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the claims of Group II, directed to a method of determining whether a subject is at risk for development of macular degeneration (claims 7-20), without traverse. Since Group II has been elected in response to the restriction requirement, no election of a subgroup of SEQ ID NOS has been made.

Power of Attorney

A new Power of Attorney (Revocation of Prior Powers) was submitted by EFS on August 25, 2006.

Interview Summary

Applicants thank Examiner Babic for the helpful telephone conference of August 25, 2006, wherein the restriction requirement was discussed. Examiner Babic confirmed that the Office action indicated that an election of a subgroup of two specific SEQ ID NOS was only required for Group I. The Examiner confirmed that if Group II was elected in response to the restriction requirement, no election of a subgroup of SEQ ID NOS was required.

Conclusion

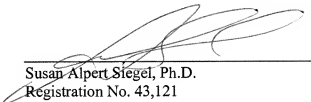
It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims submitted herewith should all be recombined and considered in the current case, and as such they are in a condition for substantive examination. If any minor matters remain to be discussed, or in the unlikely event that additional restriction requirement is asserted, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned prior to issuance of the next Office action, in order to arrange a telephonic interview. This request is being submitted under MPEP §713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

Respectfully submitted,

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